

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR COLLECTION & SUBMISSION OF
SAMPLES FOR DETECTION OF *Bordetella pertussis*
BY PCR AND CULTURE**

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

Important: If the specimen container is received leaking, not properly labeled, test requisition not completed or the specimen label does not match the test requisition, the specimen will not be tested!

Upon receipt of this unit - place the refrigerant provided into a freezer until ready to ship the specimen.

1. Using a 3 cc syringe, aspirate 1.5 cc (mL) of 0.9% sterile saline from one of the three ampules contained in the collection unit. The third ampule is enclosed as a backup should it be needed.
2. Open a vein infusion set (Butterfly) and cut needle off leaving 6-7 inches of tubing connected to the syringe attachment end.
3. Attach tubing to the syringe.
4. Tilt patients' head back (approximately 70° from vertical) and instruct patient not to swallow.
5. Slide the tubing along the posterior nasal passage until the nasopharynx is reached.
6. Instill saline into one nostril, holding the second nostril closed.
7. Immediately collect the specimen by aspirating the saline while withdrawing tube. Recovery must occur immediately or the instilled fluid will rapidly drain down the throat. Recovery of injected saline will be minimal as cells and nasal secretions will plug the tubing.
8. Rinse tubing thoroughly into remaining saline from the opened ampule.
9. Repeat with the other nostril, using the second, unopened ampule found in the collection unit.
10. **Combine** specimens from each nostril into one container and label tube with the same name/unique identifier used on the requisition.
11. **Refrigerate - DO NOT FREEZE** - specimen until ready to ship by the most rapid means to the laboratory.
12. Record the name/unique identifier on the tube/requisition for your records. You will use it to link the specimen to the patient.
13. Place properly labeled tube, **wrapped in absorbent material such as paper towel or tissue**, in plastic bag provided and then place bag containing the tube into aluminum screw-capped can and secure lid.
14. Wrap **completed** test requisition around **outside** of aluminum screw-capped can.
15. Place aluminum can with **completed** test requisition into screw-capped cardboard container and **secure cap**.
16. Place the cardboard container into Styrofoam container, along with refrigerant provided. **Complete** and apply orange return mailing/clinical specimen label to corrugated shipping box and ship by the most rapid and convenient means available (e.g., a courier, bus, express mail, etc.).

Specimens must be received within 24 hours of specimen collection. Specimens must be received during normal operating hours of 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday to ensure timely processing.